

This legislation confronts a clear need and represents careful—but incomplete—efforts to create a narrow program with appropriate congressional oversight. Specifically, this bill allows for broad carveouts to the Wiretap Act, and it is not clear this broad authority is necessary. Additionally, the privacy protections could be interpreted as applying only to information gathered between the drone and the drone operator and not applying to additional information gathered, collected, stored, or analyzed while initially detecting drones. Interpreted this way, the bill represents a massive expansion of the government's warrantless wiretapping authority.

I have received assurances from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and my colleagues from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to work together to address my concerns. Despite that, I voted against this bill while looking forward to remedying this quickly in perfecting legislation. Similarly, I am looking forward to published guidance from the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security making clear that all information gathered, stored, analyzed, or collected under this act are subject to the privacy protections.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate has just cleared the most sweeping package of bills to address the opioid epidemic to date. These fresh policies will make a difference on the ground. In my view, there are promising ideas dealing with some key important priorities: helping people steer clear of addiction from the get-go and knocking down barriers that prevent people from getting help when they need it.

These policies were crafted on a bipartisan basis in practically half of the committees in Congress. The Finance Committee passed its own bill in June with more than two dozen policies that at least one member from each side of the aisle sponsored.

For example, Senator BENNET led the way on a provision that will help root out fraud by requiring prescriptions to be sent electronically from doctors to pharmacies. It is too easy to fake a script on old-fashioned paper and get a bottle of pills, so this policy would make electronic prescriptions the norm in Medicare's drug program.

Senators BROWN and STABENOW have important provisions that will help make sure new mothers and infants have access to the care and treatment they need. Senator MENENDEZ and Senator SCOTT worked on provisions that will help parents get treatment and find smart, safe ways to reunify families.

Since homelessness and addiction often go hand-in-hand, Senator CARDIN and I have worked on a bipartisan provision that is about uncovering innova-

tive opportunities in Medicaid to provide housing-related supports and services to individuals struggling with substance use disorders including for those transitioning out of residential treatment and for those who are experiencing homelessness.

Senators WARNER, CARDIN, and THUNE have also brought forward an important provision that would expand access to telehealth services in Medicare for older Americans struggling with substance use disorders. That will expand this promising technology so seniors who don't live in rural areas can also remotely connect with their doctors to get substance use disorder treatment. When it comes to ensuring a substance use disorder is being correctly managed, frequent and convenient check-ups can make all the difference in the world.

These are only a few of the ideas the Finance Committee has been able to bring forward in this bipartisan package.

This legislation represents a measured but important step towards ensuring Federal and State policies are working towards a resolution of this crisis, not making it worse. I view this legislation as an early step in dealing with the epidemic. Nearly 70,000 Americans are dying every year due to drug overdoses. This is one of the most serious issues of our time, and the work will need to continue, especially when it comes to identifying how the crisis began in the first place and holding those responsible accountable.

Congress is going to keep at it until pain policy in this country is back on track. I think of how this has progressed as a "prescription pendulum." Years ago, when I was the director of the Oregon Grey Panthers, I would get calls from the families of older people coping with pain. They would say, "My dad is 93 years old, he's in agony, but he can't get a prescription because they say he'll get addicted."

More recently, the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. If you broke a bone, came down with a bout of back pain, or had a root canal, getting a script for a bottle of opioids became routine. Millions of Americans got hooked. No community has been spared from the consequences—mothers, fathers, babies, sons, daughters, grandmothers, relatives, friends, co-workers—I would challenge any American to claim someone in their social network has not felt the effects that opioid addiction have had.

Congress has a responsibility to stay on this issue until no family is torn apart just because of a misused or inappropriate prescription after an accident, until no parent has to spend day after day wondering if they will receive a call that their child has overdosed again, until no baby has to spend days or even weeks after they are born recovering from opioid withdrawal. The bill before the Senate today will start to turn the tide, and I am proud so many of my colleagues supported it.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the October 1, 2018, vote on motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 302, long-term FAA reauthorization. I would have voted yea.

PROTECTING RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2018

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on S. 994, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act of 2018.

First, I want to thank Senator HATCH and the other supporters of the bill. In particular, I would also like to thank the House sponsors of the bill, Representatives KUSTOFF and KILMER, for their work in shepherding it through that chamber.

I am glad to see this bill finally enacted into law.

Early last year, a string of bomb threats to synagogues, mosques, and other religious affiliated institutions, such as Jewish community centers, threatened this Nation and one of its core constitutional tenants: the free exercise of religion. In the wake of these threats, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on religious hate crimes.

Just 1 month after that hearing, two Islamic centers in northern California were attacked during Ramadan. At the largest Sacramento mosque, a burned Quran was also filled with bacon and handcuffed to a fence. That mosque alone has been targeted multiple times.

Despicable acts like these have become far too common. The statistics are startling. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, from 2014 to 2016, anti-Muslim hate crimes increased 99.4 percent, from 154 reported incidents to 307 reported incidents. There has also been a rise in anti-Semitic incidents. The Anti-Defamation League reported 1,986 anti-Semitic incidents nationally in 2017, compared to 942 in 2015, an increase of 110 percent. We heard testimony in the Judiciary Committee that this increase came after the dangerous rhetoric that was used during the 2016 election cycle.

Unfortunately, this sort of persistent hateful rhetoric continues to plague our Nation and our political discourse. This was made manifest during a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville last summer that culminated in a young woman losing her life.

The clear lesson is that all of us must strongly condemn hateful acts and state in no uncertain terms that they have no place in our country. This legislation is one way for us to do that. This bill updates the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 to specifically prohibit threats of force made against religious real property, including the property of religiously affiliated institutions.